

REMARKS

The Official Action of May 25, 2007, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claim in the application is now claim 53, and this claim defines patentable subject matter warranting its allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 44-52 have been cancelled. Claim 53 remains in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to and rejection of claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended the claim to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the objection and rejection have now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Walraven '900. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to claim 53 as amended.

The Examiner maintains that Van Walraven '900 teaches cavities which are substantially unpressurized. Applicant does not agree that paragraphs 0025 and 0032 of Van Walraven support the Examiner's position.

Claim 53 describes a pipe clip with a vibration isolating member of porous vulcanized rubber with closed cavities and separating walls between them. Van Walraven '900 discloses a vibration isolating layer with elastic material which may be a rubber material with a porous structure (see Col. 4, lines 29-31). However, this porous rubber is different from the porous rubber set out in claim 53. In claim 53 as amended, the closed cavities of the porous rubber are unpressurized. The fact that the closed cavities are unpressurized is the result of the rubber being made by using a hydrated salt in the rubber, wherein during vulcanization of the rubber water is cleaved off from the salt leaving dehydrated salt in the cavities. The water is evaporated resulting in a formation of the cavities. During cooling the water vapour condenses (in a much greater cavity) so that substantially only a minimal quantity of water remains behind in the cavities. The salt, of course, remains in the cavities. The unpressurized closed cavities allow the rubber to undergo a deformation (compression) wherein in the closed cavities no significant pressure increase occurs. The closed cavities being substantially unpressurized is particularly advantageous in view of the purpose of the vibration isolating member; the energy contained in the vibrations is absorbed by the deformation of the rubber material which is not impeded by

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a substantial pressure within the enclosed cavities.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited prior art documents teach a rubber with substantially unpressurized closed cavities nor presents how to obtain such unpressurized closed cavities, the vibration isolating clip.

Applicant further submits that the claimed invention patentably defines over Van Walraven '900 based on the structural differences identified above.


The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their applications against any of applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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